

If Senator DeCamp wants to look at the question of how many part-time workers are covered by unemployment and a surprising number are because of the dollar earning limits we have, if he wants to look at that he should look at those dollar earning limits. Right now it says you must earn, to be eligible for unemployment, a thousand dollars in a year after certain disqualifications and \$200 in each of two quarters. Now that is what we have had on the law for some time. It was changed from about a \$100 per quarter about five years ago. But there is a mechanism already in place to try and screen out the very transient worker that Senator DeCamp is talking about, the one that is working a minimal number of hours or does not work on a continuous basis for more than six months. Now if those dollar limits are too low, if we're allowing too many marginal part-time workers then indeed we should perhaps look at those dollar limits, but to exempt all workers in one type of industry because of this problem is the wrong solution. I think that Senator Barrett is saying that we should go back to where the law stood, where the court interpretations have been, before we take this action and then begin to look at other options. But to come in and offer an industry an exemption for all their workers who work at home no matter how many hours, no matter what circumstances, whether they work 40 hours for several years, whether they earn seven thousand dollars or one thousand is not the type of solution. So I would suggest Senator Barrett is correct in his amendment and that we ought to return to that. But I also simply would like to point out that Donnelley is paying, we are considering these people independent contractors and I think that it is important that the distinction for unemployment is not part-time or full time, as much as independent contractor versus employee. If indeed these individuals were independent contractors they would not be having their employer pay the FICA, rather the employee would be contributing that on their own as self-employed individuals. So Donnelley at least as far as Social Security purposes is counting these people as employees and I would suggest if they are willing to do that they ought to be willing to count them as employees for Social Security. I think the issue that we have to look at is are these employees or are they independent contractors, not do they work at home or in an office and not are they full time or part-time. If Senator DeCamp wants to address the question of part-time workers he should look at the dollar limits that are now in the law rather than allow one corporation an exclusion. I support Senator Barrett's motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins then Senator Beutler then